

Wealth, Aspiring Patriot and Founding Father and Paul Revere

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In a nearly thousand page book used to teach History in Public Schools, the document cites Paul Revere only once. It says, "They spotted the British troops as they emerged from the darkness, Paul Revere and two other men rode horses through the countryside sounding the alarm that the British were coming."¹ Paul Revere was a dark unknown man, who was made famous by a poem by Henry W. Longfellow, of which was one of the most insignificant incidents of Paul Revere's career. Most of Paul Revere's service to the American cause was done in the dark alleys, under the guise of anonymity and secret oaths. While Paul Revere was a dedicated servant of the cause, he never reached the level of respect of such notable Bostonian founding fathers as Samuel Adams, John Hancock, or John Adams; all of whom were wealthy established family and members of the wealthy establishment. Paul Revere wanted badly to be a part of the "elite founding fathers" that had the privilege to created the basic documents and government of which our country was founded. Paul did not have the wealth, society positions or the political limelight that thrust men being chosen to serve in the Confederation Congress, Paul Revere's hard work and endless persistent fight did not make up for

¹ Paul Boyer and Stuckey. *American Nation*(Austin, Texas: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2005) 17.

the lack of wealth.

In his book, *True Story of Paul Revere* Charles Ferris Gettemy wrote, “Paul Revere was not a statesman. Nor was he, in the usual acceptance of the term, even a great man. His immediate paternal ancestor had crossed the seas to carve out success in the new world, and had educated his son in the shop and the school.,,,Revere was one of the latter. He had the keen zest of the citizen whose patriotism is of the lusty type that causes him to wish to take an active part in all movements that make for civic progress, and civic progress from 1760 to the Revolution meant enlightened resistance to British parliamentary aggression.”²

Most men like Revere--somewhat above the average of the mass, but not possessing the usual elements of enduring fame-- pass out of life eulogized by their fellow-citizens; remembered by a circle of admiring and respecting friends until they also pass away; and are ultimately forgotten, finding no place upon the pages of written history.”³ Paul’s efforts in the cause were not widely known or remembered. If not for the poem of Longfellow, his name would probably not even be mentioned in today’s History book. Paul Revere’s performance, whether his action were noble or self-serving, as a hero of the cause of independence needs to be addressed and analyzed.

Paul Revere was born in Boston to Apollos Revoire and Deborah Hitchbourn. Although the actual exact day was not known, it was December 1734. Apollos Rivoire was a French man who immigrated to America at the age of 13. His father, then named Revoire changed his name to Revere so that others would think he was Anglican and an Englishman. He came to America as an indentured

² Charles Ferris Gettemy. *The True Story of Paul Revere*(Boston: Little, Brown and Co.1906) 5

³ Charles Ferris Gettemy. *The True Story of Paul Revere*(Boston: Little, Brown and Co.1906) 20

servant learning gold and silversmithing under his years of servitude. Paul's parents had eleven or twelve siblings of which Paul was the oldest boy. Only seven of his siblings lived to adulthood.

His parents were very poor. They lived on Fish Street which is the poorest of the districts of Boston at the time. Paul slept in the attic. It was near the wharf. This was the place of action. Paul described that there were ships being loaded or unloaded. The barrels were filled with molasses for making rum. There would be barrels of tea, ribbons, fabric, paper, glass and ironware. It was a place where you could get the freshest and cheapest price on fish and seafood.⁴ (Apollos Revoire left his homeland because of his religious convictions. He was a protestant in France while the majority of the French were staunch Catholic and had strong control of the government at the time. He was abused by the Catholics for his belief. His uncle paid for his trip and arranged for him to work as an apprentice for a silversmith. As an apprentice, he was not paid; but received his food, place to sleep and his clothing. After seven years he would pay off his debt and become a journeyman silversmith. He also learned the goldsmith business. The shop being close to the wharf made it easier to ship items back to England or sell to the sea captains nor crew.⁵

Sometime during 1720's, Apollos opened his own silversmith shop. He changed his name to Paul Revere. The French and British had been at war with each other for many years. The British colonists did not like the French accent and it was hard for Apollos to get much business when he was categorized as French. Paul remembers as a youth feeling bad as a child. He and his siblings were tormented for their French heritage. Since English was the primary language, he thought that Paul

⁴ George Sullivan. *Paul Revere-In Their Own Words*. (New York:Scholastic Reference. 1999) 10-11.

⁵ George Sullivan. *Paul Revere-In Their Own Words*. (New York:Scholastic Reference. 1999) 13-15

Revere would be easier to pronounce by the Bostonians.⁶

Paul was sent at an early age to learn politeness and his ABC's, It cost his parent a penny a week for him to go. When Paul became seven years old he started attending Boston's North Grammar School. Only boys were allowed to attend the school. There the boys learned to write on one floor of the building and to read on the other floor. Young Paul was put to school under Master John Tileston whom for 80 years was associated with the school.⁷

He was at this school until he was almost fourteen. He was taken out of school to learn a trade. Other boys from the wealthy side of town continued at the school until they would attend University. Paul yearned to continue his studies. His position in life was a tradesman and he apprenticed under his father, learning gold and silversmithing. Paul had a talent in the design of items in metal. He finished his apprenticeship just prior to his father's death in 1754. He took over the family business following his father's death. He was left to support the family. These were hard times for Paul and his siblings. With the death of their father, it again brought attention to their station in life and the fight for financial survival.

Two years later Paul, at 21, gave up his responsibilities for supporting all the family and silversmithing and headed for War. The French and Indian War had broken out between the British and the French. They asked for volunteers to help with the war effort of the British. Paul volunteered under the commission of Governor William Shirley. He was given a uniform with a blue coat and red pants. In his belt he carried an axe. All men brought their own rifle from home. They saw his leadership and made him a second lieutenant in the army.⁸

⁶ George Sullivan. *Paul Revere-In Their Own Words*. (New York:Scholastic Reference. 1999) 14

⁷ Charles Ferris Gettemy. *The True Story of Paul Revere*(Boston: Little, Brown and Co.1906) 25

⁸ Charles Ferris Gettemy. *The True Story of Paul Revere*(Boston: Little, Brown and Co.1906) 35

The war time effort was not what he expected. He never saw a native American nor a French soldier. Paul had to fight boredom and did not get a chance to prove his leadership in the military. Paul was paid \$3.00 per month. By November, Paul had returned home to Boston. He was disappointed and sad about his experiences.

Paul took back over the control of the Silversmith shops. Upon arrival he met a lady in Boston named Sara Orme. Paul called and wrote her name as Sary. On August 17, 1757 he married Sary and moved in with his mother. Sara and Paul had eight children together. Three of these children died as infants. There was not much written about Sara. She died at 37 years old, three months after giving birth to their eighth child. During their life together, Paul was so engrossed in making money, that there was not a lot of time for her⁹

Paul spent the next years after marriage, working hard in the business. He looked for every opportunity for a sell. He totally wrapped himself into the business and making money. During his time in business, Paul Revere kept very detailed record books. He wrote the name of each customer and listed what he made for them. He wrote down what he charged and how they paid. Some paid him in “hard money”, Others traded with rum, fish or old silver pieces. He kept records and charged his brothers money for living with him. These records are itemized and tell how they paid.

During these years, he was definitely an industrious citizen of Boston and increased his income dramatically. Paul Revere’s work created over 5,000 different pieces of silver. He created copper plates for printing illustrations for books. Some of the more curious items that Revere made were a

⁹ Esther Forbes. *Paul Revere and His World*. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin. 1942.)22.

chain for a pet squirrel, an ostrich egg snuffbox, surgical instruments and a child's whistle¹⁰.

He even tried dentistry. Paul Revere's ad appeared in the Boston Gazette and Country Journal with advertisements for false teeth. General Warren was killed in the Battle of Bunker Hill. His body was identified for proper burial by the false tooth prepared for him by Paul Revere¹¹

Paul worked so hard for his family. His family was definitely not wealthy, but lived well and met their obligations. Paul had a large responsibility to take care of their children. He called his children his "lambs" and loved them dearly. Paul would have loved to be wealthy and it was always his dream.

In 1763, during the national outbreak of Small Pox, Boston was hit hard. Small Pox begins with a fever and then red spots break out. As the fever rises, the red spots form blisters. These often leave scars on the face. Paul's new born infant was infected with the small pox. The disease spreads easily from one person to another. Paul Revere was ordered to bring his child to the Boston Pesthouse. These were houses that all those that contracted the disease went to. Paul knew that if he sent his daughter to the pesthouse, it was an almost sure death. Paul decided to keep his daughter at home. They confined all the family to the house. They made him shut down the silver factory. They had to fly a flag that their household had small pox. They were in confinement for months. Paul's records show that there was no orders for silver items during this time frame. This again set them back in their economic wellness.¹²

Paul Revere wanted to feel a part. He had a great psychological need to belong. He joined all kinds of organizations. It began when he was a teenager. They formed a bell ringers club when he

¹⁰ Paul Revere Heritage. *Significant Trivial Information About Paul Revere*.
<http://www.paul-rever-heritage.com/trivia/html> (Accessed Feb. 12, 2012).

¹¹ Charles Ferris Gettemy. *The True Story of Paul Revere* (Boston: Little, Brown and Co. 1906) 22

¹² George Sullivan. *Paul Revere-In Their Own Words*. (New York: Scholastic Reference. 1999) 27-29

was 16. They entered into an agreement and a secret oath to fulfill their job as bell ringers. He would be fined three shillings if he did not hear the wardens call. This agreement was not with the church but among themselves and this was Revere's first effort in self-rule.¹³

The fraternal order of Freemasons played an a part of the American beginnings. George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and thirteen of the 39 signers of the Declaration of Independence belonged to the Freemasons. It wasn't that there were so many significant founding fathers that were members. "It was also because the rapidly growing republic and the fraternal society still held so many ideals in common. American republican values looked like Mason values with large honorable civic-mindedness, a high regard for learning and progress, and what might be called a broad and tolerant religiosity.. Indeed, says Steven Bullock, a historian at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and a leading scholar of the Masonic fraternity in America, Freemasons 'helped to give the new nation a symbolic core'. Not for nothing were the compass, square and other emblems associated with Freemasonry emblazed everywhere, even on jewelry, furniture and table setting belonging to Mason and many non-Masons as well. Nor was it insignificant that a goodly number of Americans thought-erroneously but justifiably-that the Great Seal of the United States itself contained Masonic symbols. It was both a tribute and a liability to the brotherhood that people saw the influence of Freemasonry. About 5 percent of the American Male population were members of the Masons.¹⁴

Paul Revere was a Social Climber. His poverty led to his great desire to belong and to climb the social ladder. The best way to do this in the new colonies was to join the Free-Masons. Long before the revellions in Boston, Paul Revere had joined the Masons. This was a secretive group designed to

¹³ George Sullivan. *Paul Revere-In Their Own Words*. (New York:Scholastic Reference. 1999) 16-19

¹⁴ Jay Olson. "Inside the Masons". *U.S. News and World Report*, September 5, 2005, 30-35.

develop brother love, Paul's duties as a Mason were very important to him. In 1770, he was elected Master of the St. Andrew's Masonic Lodge. His duties were to conduct meetings, and Maintain the honor and dignity of the Lodge. He rose to the top of this organization¹⁵

As part of the Masons, you enter into covenants and oaths as part of the ceremony. As part of the ceremony, you enter into an oath of secrecy and if you divulge these secrets you do it as a peril of your life. Many tales are told of London Masons, killing one who did not maintain their oath of secrecy. The tales of Sherlock Holmes are intertwined with the dealings of the Masons.

Secret oaths were part of the American culture. They took them seriously and adhered to these oaths in their life. Such oaths, both of the Masonic brotherhood, and oaths that he would take in connection to the rebellions, would keep much of the Independence era exploits of Paul Revere of being well known and publicized. Such secrecy, played a strong part in keeping Paul from being part of the Continental Congress nor playing a stronger role in the leadership of the new central government. Paul Revere described this in his letter telling the happenings of his midnight ride, "We were so careful that our meetings should be kept Secret; that every time we met, every person swore upon the Bible, that they would not discover any of our transactions,"¹⁶

It was through his connection with the Masons that Paul Revere met Dr. Joseph Warren. He would play a key role of leadership in training and involving Paul in the Bostonian revolt. Dr. Warren was the most respected doctor and surgeon in Boston at the time. He held leadership positions in the Mason and was its Grand Master. It was through this association is where he would recruit responsible

¹⁵ Jay Olson. "Inside the Masons". *U.S. News and World Report*, September 5, 2005, 30-35.

¹⁶ Paul Revere. Manuscript of the Letter From Col. Paul Revere to the Corresponding Secretary (Jeremy Belknap). 1798

men to work in the cause of freedom. He was a leading proponent of freedom and authored the Suffolk Resolves which was passed by the Massachusetts legislature calling for a “Defensive War” John Cary in his book, “Joseph Warren, Physician, Politician and Patriot”, argues that Dr. Warren is one of the most important men of the Revolution and he is overlooked. In his Suffolk Resolves, he first addresses the issues of independence and rebellion, and war. The Suffolk Resolves were used by the Continental Congress in discussing the principles of Independence. Paul Revere delivered the Suffolk Resolves to the Continental Congress to John Adams and Samuel Adams who were meeting. They passed these resolves and started the process toward independence and War. Warren had the financial means and respect to be a revered leader of the revolution. His work was cut short by his death at the Battle of Bunker Hill.¹⁷

Dr, Joseph Warren was a hero of Paul Revere's. Dr. Warren was the single most important man in Paul Revere's life. It was Dr, Warren that recruited Paul Revere into the Boston rebellion and his secret societies that battled the British regulars and the philosophical British rule. One can imagine, every time Dr. Warren would ask for volunteers to help him, there would be Paul with his tongue hanging out and begging him to choose him, A teacher sees such students and calls them the eager beavers. Paul supported every effort of Dr. Warren and became second in command to Dr, Warren's rebellion organizations.

Paul was repeatedly appointed on committee. He served among other things on the Committee on Lamps. This committee served to fix the places that the City of Boston would erect city street Lamps. In August 1774, his name appears with twenty-one Boston citizens who refused to serve on the

¹⁷ John Cary. *Joseph Warren: Physician, Politician and Patriot*. (Chicago: University of Illinois. 1961) 52

Suffolk grand jury, the last one to sit for the British Crown. It was the purpose of Parliament to break the spirit of the colonists by making the justices of the Supreme Court in Massachusetts independent of the people for their salaries. Paul Revere was one of the grand Jurors who was serving the second term on the Court. Paul organized a rebellion and they declines to serve and all but one of the list refused. When the court opened and the jurors were addressed to come forth, they refused to be sworn in. Revere was very proud of that day when all refused to be sworn in.¹⁸

The secret societies of the time had unlimited influence on bringing forth the conflict with the mother country. In most of these Revere was a key leader and player.

The beginning organization was the "Union club". It arose out of the excitement around the passage of the Stamp Act. John Adams wrote about the "Caucus Club" in his diary. Feb. 1. 1763. ---This day I learned that the Caucus Club meets at certain times in the garret of Tom Dawes, the adjutant of the Boston regiment. He has a large house, and he has a movable partition in his garret, which he takes down, and the whole club meet in one room. There they smoke tobacco till you cannot see from one end of the garret to the other. Then they drink flip, I suppose, and there they choose a moderator, who puts questions to the vote regularly; and selectmen, assessors, collectors, wardens, firewards, and representatives, are regularly chosen before they are chosen in the town."¹⁹ Paul Revere was a founding member of both the Union Club and the Caucus Club.

Another important group that Paul Revere was an active member was the "Long Room Club." The Long Room Club was started in 1762 and was one of the first and most important clubs to hatch

¹⁸ Charles Ferris Gettemy. *The True Story of Paul Revere*(Boston: Little, Brown and Co.1906) 22

¹⁹ Charles Ferris Gettemy. *The True Story of Paul Revere*(Boston: Little, Brown and Co. 1906) 38

the American Revolutionary War. It was held in the back room of a tavern and Samuel Adams was one of the main leaders of this group. Samuel Adams was a powerful member of the Massachusetts legislature, a body that Paul Revere so coveted. John Hancock was also another powerful leader of the Long Room Club. He was the wealthiest man in Boston and flaunted his power and money in fighting against the British. He was one of the most hated of Americans by the British.²⁰

The Sons of Liberty came from a change in the Union Club. Paul Revere joined the Sons of Liberty in 1765. This was a group that began in Boston but had soon spread to the other colonies. The Sons of Liberty met in a distillery and also the Green Dragon Tavern. John Adams also wrote about the Sons of Liberty in his journal, "Jany. 15, 1766--- Spent the evening with the Sons of Liberty at their own apartment in Hanover-Square near the Tree of Liberty. It is a counting-room, in Chase and Speakman's distillery; a very small room it is. There were present John Avery, a distiller of liberal education; John Smith, the brazier; Thomas Chase, distiller; Joseph Fields, master of a vessel; Henry Bass; George Trott, jeweler; and Henry Welles. I was very cordially and respectfully treated by all present. We had punch, wine, pipes and tobacco, biscuit and cheese, etc. They chose a committee to make preparations for grand rejoicings upon the arrival of the news of a repeal of the stamp act."²¹

From which it appears that politicians are much the same in all times. Public officials were chosen by a ring in Boston in the year of our Lord 1763 before they were "chosen in the town," and the Revolution was hatched in a rum-shop, while those upon whom history has placed the seal of greatness and statesmanship filled themselves with "flip" in an atmosphere dense with tobacco smoke, as they

²⁰ George Sullivan. *Paul Revere-In Their Own Words*. (New York:Scholastic Reference. 1999) 32-35

²¹ Charles Ferris Gettemy. *The True Story of Paul Revere*(Boston: Little, Brown and Co. 1906) 38

plotted and planned the momentous events of the time,²² .

In the Walt Disney version of “Johnny Tremain”, the stirring patriotic number “Sons of Liberty” is sung by Johnny and all the patriots. One would think that was a disneyized version of the classic story. Paul Revere in his letter to Bellknap tells that songs and ballads were written about the Sons of Liberty and were sung by all. It details a Dr. Church who would make fun of the songs. He became a traitor at this time.²³

Dr. Warren as the wise and caniving leader, and Paul Revere as the reactionary work-horse were influential in carry out the acts of the secret committees. Dr. Warren and especially Paul Revere seemed to be intimately involved in the escalation of the Boston Massacre and especially in the planning of the Boston Tea Party.

The Boston Massacre, as it is called, occurred on March 5, 1770. Most believe that Paul Revere was at the Massacre. There was no evidence he was a leading exploiter at the event, but he drew pictures of the Massacre and where the bodies fell. This engraving was so detailed it was used in the trial of the soldiers. While he may not have been involved in the actual event, his role was completely different for the exploitation afterwards. His engravings of a picture of the massacre using gold plates, lithographs were printed and distributed throughout the colonies. The lithographs show British soldiers shooting at defenseless Bostonian citizens. It was not only known as the Boston Massacre, but become the bloody Boston Massacre. That night Revere’s house windows were

²² Charles Ferris Gettemy. *The True Story of Paul Revere*(Boston: Little, Brown and Co. 1906) 42

²³ Paul Revere. Manuscript of the Letter From Col. Paul Revere to the Corresponding Secretary (Jeremy Belknap). 1798

decorated with pictures of the Massacre and previous incidents by the British. Several thousand people gathered at the Revere home to view the window pictures and participate in the processional of “silent gloom.”²⁴

Prior to the Boston Tea Party, Paul’s wife Sara died at the age of 37. . It was a hard event on Paul. Before the year end, Paul met and married Rachel Walker. This truly was a marriage made in heaven and new romance and home life began for Paul and Rachel. They had eight more children together and he started to spend more time with Rachel.

All evidence leads to the fact that Revere played an intricate role in the planning of the Boston Tea Party. Secrecy was of the utmost and oaths were taken and on the most part kept. Paul Revere was one of the patriots making sure they didn’t unload the tea before the Tea Party. The next day Paul Revere was one of six men who rode the countryside telling them about the tea party and efforts to bring the tea ashore at some other place. Paul Revere participated in the Tea Party dressed like “Mohawk”. A folk song became popular with the following verse which praised Paul and Dr. Warren for their leadership of the event.

Our Warren's there and bold Revere
With hands to do and words to cheer,
For liberty and laws;
Our country's "braves" and firm defenders
Shall ne'r be left by true Nor
Then rally, boys, and hasten on
To meet our chiefs at the Green Dragon. (Paul Revere-In His Own Words)

No other men are mentioned in the song.²⁵

“Few historians would deny that the Boston Massacre proved to be a milestone in America's

²⁴ George Sullivan. *Paul Revere-In Their Own Words*. (New York:Scholastic Reference. 1999) 42-43

²⁵ George Sullivan. *Paul Revere-In Their Own Words*. (New York:Scholastic Reference. 1999) 42-53

road to independence. By popularizing the tragic event, Paul Revere's print became "the first powerful influence in forming an outspoken anti-British public opinion," one which the revolutionary leaders had almost lost hope of achieving."²⁶

Revere became a member of the Massachusetts Committee of Safety and attempted to tell surrounding battalions, store owners, and towns of possible British onslaughts. He also set up signals that townspeople should look for should an attack become imminent. One of these was to hang two lanterns in a church bell tower for all to see, giving militia men, dubbed Minutemen, substantial time to take preventative measures against the British.²⁷

On April 18, 1775, the Committee of Safety found out the British were going to march on Concord. He hurriedly obtained a horse and rode hard for Lexington, where he awoke John Hancock and Samuel Adams from their sleep. Captured on his return by the British, the troops were forced to let him go as he threatened that they were surrounded by troops ready for battle. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow dedicated his famed poem, "Paul Revere's Ride" to the patriot who helped foil British plans for a surprise attack²⁸.

Paul Revere's active and detailed plans were elaborate and detailed. Paul was the architect of the plan. The following details of the ride are from the official Revere House details, "One, if by land, and two, if by sea" phrase was coined by the American poet, Henry W. Longfellow in his poem, Paul Revere's Ride. It was a reference to the secret signal orchestrated by Revere during his

²⁶ Early American Website. The Boston Massacre
<http://www.earlyamerica.com/review/winter96/massacre.html> (accessed May 12, 2012).

²⁷ Charles Ferris Gettemy. *The True Story of Paul Revere* (Boston: Little, Brown and Co. 1906) 48

²⁸ Arts and Education. *Paul Revere-The Midnight Ride*. "Biography" 2005. DVD.

historic ride from Boston to Concord on the verge of American Revolutionary War. The signal was meant to alert patriots about the route the British troops chose to advance to Concord.

Few days before the historic ride, Revere was preparing his mission and arranged with three fellow patriots to set up a light signal in case if British troops started their advance to Concord. To give even more information, it was agreed that one lantern meant that the troops chose the longer land route and two lanterns meant the shorter route by water, leaving less time for patriots to react. On the night of April 18, 1775 Dr.. Warren dispatched his most trusted messenger to alert patriot leaders in Concord, John Hancock and Samuel Adams that British plan to attack to arrest them and destroy the ammunition supplies prepared to stage armed struggle against the authorities.

When Paul.Revere started his ride, Robert John Newman, the sexton (custodian) of the Old North church and Captain John Pulling carried two lanterns to the steeple of the church while Thomas Bernard kept the watch outside on the street. The two lanterns were meant as the message that the British forces left from Boston Common, which then bordered the Charles River, and rowed over to Cambridge.

The place for the signal, the Old North Church in Boston's north end was chosen for two reasons. One was that the Old North was at the time the tallest building in Boston. Even today its steeple is easily visible from far away in many directions standing high at 191 ft (58 m).

The second reason why Revere chose this specific church was because of the cooperation of Robert John Newman, the sexton (custodian) of the church who was a fellow patriot and had access to church in the middle of the night. Despite its historical significance, the "One if by Land Two if by Sea" signal was just a backup plan. It was meant to warn patriots in Charlestown, a borough across the river

from Boston in case if the messenger himself could not make it there from Boston to start his ride. With so many British troops present in Boston at that time P.R. could easily be arrested by patrols. But at the end he was able to safely leave Boston by boat and ride himself so the signal was in fact redundant. With this a popular myth was created that the lanterns were intended for Revere himself who was waiting for the signal across the river. This is how P.R. himself described his plan to use "Lanthorns" in a letter to Jeremy Belknap, Corresponding Secretary of the Massachusetts Historical Society dated in 1798. The Sunday before, by desire of Dr. Warren, I had been to Lexington, to Mess. Hancock and Adams, who were at the Rev. Mr. Clark's. I returned at Night thro Charlestown; there I agreed with a Col. Conant, and some other Gentlemen, that if the British went out by Water, we would shew two Lanthorns in the North Church Steeple; and if by Land, one, as a Signal; for we were apprehensive it would be difficult to Cross the Charles River, or git over Boston neck.²⁹

Paul Revere was never a member of the Old North Church where the famous "One if by land, and two if by sea" lanterns were hanged. The Old North has been a part of the Anglican/Episcopal Church, the official church of the British Crown. Revere himself like many other patriots was a Congregationalist, the religion which drew its roots in Puritanism.³⁰

²⁹ Paul Revere Heritage. *One by Land, and Two by Sea*.

<http://www.paul-revere-heritage.com/one-if-by-land-two-if-by-sea.html>)(Accessed February 27, 2012).

³⁰ Paul Revere Heritage. *Significant Trivial Information About Paul Revere*.

On the day of Revere's ride his wife, Rachael, had become concerned over his absence. Fearing the worst, she contacted Benjamin Church (the betrayer) who was a member of the Sons of Liberty and gave him 125 pounds to see if he could locate Paul and deliver the money. She probably thought that Paul could use the money to bribe his way out if he had been arrested. A short time later Revere arrived home.³¹

These details show the complex plan that had been developed and implemented by Paul Revere prior to the midnight ride. Dozens of people were involved in the plan with many levels of backup as so the ammunition and the leaders of the Sons of Liberty would be protected. Analysis of the ride truly puts Revere as the hero in this story.

Another one of the secret groups formed by Dr. Warren and Paul Revere was the Committee of Correspondence. In the years preceding the American Revolution, the British Parliament proceeded to enact laws that restricted the autonomy and control of the colonists. Dr. Warren pointed out the needs for the towns and villages across New England needed to coordinate and communicate their efforts into a connected response. The theory was that coordinated plan of action would have a greater effect than isolated protests no matter how powerful they may be. The question was who could coordinates the combined action in the absence of the the central body of government. Boston rebellion was directed by the Sons of Liberty. When there was a action of the whole colony, Boston needed the support of every town and village to make such a boycott work.

<http://www.paul-rever-heritage.com/trivia/html> (Accessed Feb. 12, 2012).

³¹ Paul Revere Heritage. *Significant Trivial Information About Paul Revere*.

<http://www.paul-rever-heritage.com/trivia/html> (Accessed Feb. 12, 2012).

In the beginning, the Committee of Correspondence was organized on a temporary basis to address a prominent issue, but soon they were a pertinent society. The first committee was established in Boston in 1764. Its primary mission was to oppose the Currency Act. The other functions of the Committee began to have the responsibility to disseminate information between pro-independence colonists. Communication of the colonies was a crucial key of unification of efforts. Without any other form of communication, a network of local and state committees were created to share such information and intelligence. This committee at the counted over 8,000 patriots as members..

The Committee quickly grew into an intrical part of the United States rebellion. Their efforts in disseminating information and coordinating protest become an unifying strength of the colonies. These efforts led to the founding fathers starting to focus on more strategic initiatives, such how to self-govern and how to present common views to foreign governments.³²

“When British military presence in Boston grew, the members of the Boston Correspondence Committees took charge of collecting intelligence on the military and the authorities. One of such intelligence groups consisted of craftsmen and artisans who called themselves Mechanics. This group was organized and lead by Paul Revere. Dr. Joseph Warren who orchestrated the Midnight Ride was also a member of the Boston Correspondence Committee. From the nightly foot patrols organized by Revere’s mechanics patriots had the suspicion about the planned move to Concord.

But it was on April 18, 1775 when Dr. Warren received the definite confirmation from one of

³² Paul Revere Heritage Boston *How Did the Correspondent Committee Work.*

<http://www.paul-revere-heritage.com/committees-of-correspondence.html> (Accessed April 27, 2012.

his informants. The word was that the British regulars will march to concord on that night. This set in motion the alert that Correspondence Committee planned to carry out which later became known as Paul Revere's Midnight Ride.”³³

United by their strong zeal for independence and united agitation against the British power in the colonies, the committee operated with strength and forcefulness. It helped form men who could provide the leadership in the local governments.

The leaders of the Committee were not elected but selected by the other member. While this was not democratic, it helped keep the secretness of the society from the British authorities. This committee was replaced by elected Provincial Colonies convention in early 1775.³⁴

Researcher can find in the official records of the time ample evidence of Revere's active participation and leadership in the duties of this Committee. Whenever there was an important message to be carried to the sister colonies, he was the man to whom it was entrusted to be delivered as fast as he and his horse could take him. He delivered week after week, messages from Boston to Philadelphia, New York and Virginia. He would then deliver messages back to Boston from these colonies. He was known as a good citizen and participated in all aspects of municipal functions³⁵.

³³ Paul Revere Heritage. Paul Revere's Midnight Ride

<http://www.paul-revere-heritage.com/committees-of-correspondence.html> (Accessed April 27, 2012).

³⁴ Paul Revere Heritage. Paul Revere's Midnight Ride

<http://www.paul-revere-heritage.com/committees-of-correspondence.html> (Accessed April 27, 2012).

³⁵ Charles Ferris Gettemy. *The True Story of Paul Revere* (Boston: Little, Brown and Co. 1906) 48

A not commonly known fact is that Revere is credited by the Central Intelligence Agency as the creator of the first Patriot intelligence network on record. They credit Paul Revere as a predecessor of the CIA. Their official story is as follows: "The first Patriot intelligence network on record was a secret group in Boston known as the "mechanics." The group apparently grew out of the old Sons of Liberty organization that had successfully opposed the hated Stamp Act. The "mechanics," (meaning skilled laborers and artisans) organized resistance to British authority and gathered intelligence. In the words of one of its members, Paul Revere, "in the Fall of 1774 and winter of 1775, I was one of upwards of thirty, chiefly mechanics, who formed ourselves into a Committee for the purpose of watching British soldiers and gaining every intelligence on the movements of the Tories." According to Revere, "We frequently took turns, two and two, to watch the (British) soldiers by patrolling the streets all night."

In addition, the "mechanics," also known as the Liberty Boys, sabotaged and stole British military equipment in Boston. Their security practices, however, were amateurish. They met in the same place regularly (the Green Dragon Tavern), and one of their leaders (Dr. Benjamin Church) was a British agent.

Through a number of their intelligence sources, the "mechanics" were able to see through the cover story the British had devised to mask their march on Lexington and Concord. Dr. Joseph Warren, chairman of the Committee of Safety, charged Revere with the task of warning Samuel Adams and John Hancock at Lexington that they were the probable targets of the enemy operation. Revere arranged for the warning lanterns to be hung in Old North Church to alert patriot forces at Charlestown, and then set off on his famous ride. He completed his primary mission of notifying Adams and Hancock. Then Revere, along with Dr. Samuel Prescott and William Dawes, rode on to alert Concord, only to be

apprehended by the British en route. Dawes got away, and Dr. Prescott managed to escape soon afterward and to alert the Patriots at Concord. Revere was interrogated and subsequently released, after which he returned to Lexington to warn Hancock and Adams of the proximity of British forces.

Revere then turned to still another mission, retrieving from the local tavern a trunk belonging to Hancock and filled with incriminating papers. With John Lowell, Revere went to the tavern and, as he put it, during "a continual roar of Musquetry... we made off with the Trunk."

Paul Revere had served as a courier prior to his famous "midnight ride" and continued to do so during the early years of the war. One of his earlier missions was perhaps as important as the Lexington ride. In December 1774, Revere rode to the Oyster River in New Hampshire with a report that the British, under General Gage, intended to seize Fort William and Mary. Armed with this intelligence, Major John Sullivan of the colonial militia led a force of four hundred men in an attack on the fort. The one hundred barrels of gunpowder taken in the raid were ultimately used by the Patriots to cover their retreat from Bunker Hill."³⁶

The Continental Congress passed a bill to print \$2 million dollars of currency of the Confederacy. Benjamin Franklin was named the superintendent of the printing and the job was given to Paul Revere. He engraved the plate out of gold and printed the bills on thick paper. The British called it "the paste-board currency of the rebels." Paul Revere prepared the engraving, built the press and printed and stamped the money with all haste. The engraving was turned over to Congress. Paul

³⁶Central Intelligence Agency Website. Paul Revere-the first Patriot Intelligent Network.

Revere also designed coins and medals for the states and for Congress.³⁷

Dr. Joseph Warren died at the Battle of Bunker Hill. It was devastating to Paul Revere. His hero was gone. He became the apparent heir to the head of the secret organizations..

Paul Revere helped with the war effort. He turned some of his factory into making gun powder for the war effort. He was a colonel in the Massachusetts militia. He was falsely accused of disregarding Washington's orders and was released from service. He became known as a traitor and he fought for a court with the military. Finally once he had the trial he was found innocent, but the stigma never left him. He served in the militia for two years and achieved the rank of Major.

Paul was 48 when the Revolutionary War ended. He escalated his business ventures with the help of his sons. Paul expanded his business to a hardware store. He sold brass candlesticks, paper, playing cards and birdcages. Paul founded the Revere Copper Products, Inc. and it still operates today in Massachusetts and several other locations. Its first copper rolling mills in Canton, MA produced sheathing for the great ship the USS Constitution and for the dome of the Massachusetts statehouse.

Paul started producing cannons that were used extensively for the war of 1812. After the Revolutionary War, colonial churches opened up along the coast. Each church had to have a bell. Revere produced church bells for all of the colonies. He expanded his business into producing hammers, nails, bolts and spikes.

Paul continued his role of Boston Politician and continued leadership of the "mechanics". The Mechanics were strong Federalists and very supportive of the new United States Constitution. Samuel Adams was not a strong proponent of a Central Government and not sure he wanted to support the Constitution. Paul Revere led a rally in favor of the Constitution. They signed

³⁷ George Sullivan. *Paul Revere-In Their Own Words*. (New York:Scholastic Reference. 1999) 87-88

a resolution which coerced Mr. Adams into changing his opposition to support for the Constitution.

After a close vote, Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify the Constitution.³⁸

Paul continued to serve his community. Paul Revere was the Boston's Fire Warden in 1775. When Boston was struck with an outburst of Yellow Fever, Paul was named the city's health director. Paul was 80 years old at the time of the War of 1812 and he and his fellow mechanics volunteered for the war effort. With the leadership of Paul Revere, the mechanics built Fort Strong on Noddles Island in the Boston Harbor. The War of 1812 ended without having to use Fort Strong or attacks at Boston.³⁹

Each new business was a new risk financially and could have destroyed him financially. Each business was successfully and led to a very well-to-do Paul Revere in his final years on earth. While other founding fathers (like George Washington and Thomas Jefferson) died penniless, Paul had risen to one of the most wealthy of the founding fathers and would never have to feel inferior again.

³⁸ George Sullivan. *Paul Revere-In Their Own Words*. (New York:Scholastic Reference. 1999) 101-106.

³⁹ George Sullivan. *Paul Revere-In Their Own Words*. (New York:Scholastic Reference. 1999) 113-116.